9-26-07

WWW.LAVC.EDU

WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 67, ISSUE NO. 3 | SEPTEMBER 26, 2007 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

District Refutes Claims of No Cash

College district responds to a Los Angeles Daily News article about the budget.

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

An article published by the Daily News led Valley College President Tyree Wieder and the Los Angeles Community College District's Chancellor Mark Drummond to refute claims that the college district has run out of money.

The article, published in June this year, stated that the nine colleges within the district had spent the entire $2.2 billion allocated to them through Proposition A/AA, with nearly 200 projects yet to be completed. The article cited a 2005 report by an independent auditor, who criticized LACCD officials for allowing millions to be wasted because of a lack of planning.

The Daily News reporter who wrote the article, Susan Abram, also claimed that several large projects, promised to be built using the bond money, have not even been started, including a $45 million Media Arts building at Valley.

"I'm extremely disappointed that the Daily News did not contact the college before publishing the article," said Wieder. "Its shows a lack of ethical journalism."

Weider, along with Chancellor Drummond both wrote letters to the Daily News defending the LACCD.

"Annual audits have shown repeatedly that there has been no fiscal mismanagement of our Proposition A/AA program," wrote Chancellor Drummond. "Our current $2.2 billion is not 'now spent'…We still have about $1.5 billion to spend."

The chancellor's letter then goes on to add that the LACCD has only used $725 million in its various improvements.

Weider echoed his statement, saying that many other projects were still to come at Valley.

"Upcoming projects include the construction of a new Student Services Center (and) renovations of the Math Science, Humanities, Engineering and Theatre Arts buildings."

However, the LACCD does admit that construction costs have been underestimated and general costs have risen. Larry Eisenberg, executive director of facilities planning and management was quoted in the Daily News article saying that when these projects were proposed in 2001, land cost $250 per square foot, whereas now it is almost $500 per square foot.

Chancellor Drummond agrees with this in his letter, saying "No one predicted the phenomenal construction cost increases of the last few years."

"Despite these challenges, we're delivering wonderful new facilities and…remaining true to the spirit of our master plans."

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

STANDING FOR SOMETHING - Valley College student Derail Armstrong makes a statement in more ways than one in support of the six Louisiana high school students during a rally on campus last Thursday. The so-called 'Jena 6' were charged with 2nd degree attempted murder last year after a fight with a white student at their school.

"Jena 6" Receive Valley Support

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Monarch Square looked like the Valley College of the 1960s on Thursday when dozens gathered around Monarch Square to protest and raise their voices in support of the "Jena 6."

The gathering was spearheaded by the Black Student Union as a way to raise awareness to what many are calling racial injustice in the small town of Jena, Louisiana.Six black students are facing 15-100 years in prison for an alleged assault after an incident that began when a group of black students sat under a tree that was traditionally a gathering place of Jena High School's white students. When the black students returned the next day, three nooses were hanging on the tree.

Violence eventually erupted on both sides and six black students were arrested and charged with attempted murder, although the charges were later dropped the aggravated assault, after beating up a white classmate.

Thursday morning, African-American architect major Derail Armstrong came to Valley dressed in black and wearing a noose around his neck.

"We are going to make ourselves be heard," Armstrong said.

Word quickly spread through various members of the BSU that there would be a rally at noon and that everyone was encouraged to take part at Monarch Squares' horseshoe area. Several students were busy in Monarch Hall making T-shirts and signs with the slogan "Free the Jena 6."

At around 12:01, dozens of students began to gather, from half a dozen Monarch football players to a wide assortment of interested parties. In only a few minutes, the horseshoe was full of people carrying signs that read "Stand 4 Equality," "Enough is Enough" and "No Justice, No Peace." The signs were met with loud chants of the same mantras.

"It is important for this generation to say we are not just a generation of hip hop and MySpace," said African American Studies major Ebony

see *Jena* page 4

Child Development Center Grows Up

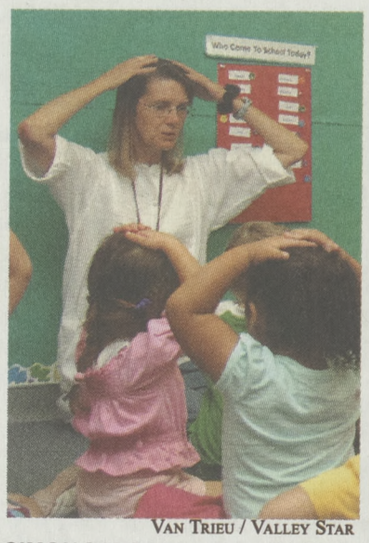
$1.8 million is headed to this popular campus service to build the "Family Research Center."

BY JAMES BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

More than $1.8 million in grants to the Valley College Child Development department have substantially bolstered the program. The money will go to a slew of new and expanded services available to Valley College and the surrounding community.

"We're doing whatever we can do to support family life, said Marni Roosevelt, the director of special projects of the child development department. "We're here for students, staff, faculty and the community." Her department has received a handful of grants that will provide two fists full of services and programs.

This semester the child development department enrolls 1500 to 1600 students, with 45 class sections featuring 24 different classes. Thanks to funds allocated as state improvement monies the child development department, Child Care Center, and Family Resource Center will find a new home at the corner of Oxnard and Ethel in a new complex. The current Child Care Center can maintain care of approximately 70 children; the new complex boasts almost double the occupancy limit. As well as improving the Child Care Center, the complex will house the department offices and classrooms, which all overlook the Child Care Center, so students can observe their future clients in their natural habitat.



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

SIMON SAYS - A teacher at Valley's Child Care Center leads students in classroom exercises

"Statistical proof over the decades indicates that children involved in early childhood programs do better throughout school." Lauren Okayama, chair of the child development department spoke of the merits of providing a fully fleshed out child development program: "[We're] providing

see *Family* page 4

Have Your Tiramisu and Eat it Too

BY SARAH BISHOP
OPINION EDITOR

Many students dream of traveling to far off places while in the classroom, now Valley College is giving these students a far off place as a classroom.

A new study abroad program to Rome is on offer for the summer of 2008. The class, called "Rome Through the Ages" takes students on a two week course where lectures are given at the ruins of a Medieval city, in front of the Vatican, and within the Sistene Chapel. History Professor, Michelle Visco organized the up-coming class and has lead two prior excursions to Rome for Orange Coast College.

"There is so much to learning about the history of a place if you actually go there," Visco said. "Learning about ancient Rome amongst the ruins of ancient Rome. You can't duplicate that in the classroom. I've been to Italy a dozen times and for me when I get to go back with a group of students who have never been, it's like I'm experiencing it for the first time, that's what make it fun for me."

The Italian language faculty has been promoting the trip along with Visco, and enough students seem interested to meet the minimum 15 necessary for the class to run.

"I'd love to go to any part of Europe that opportunity allows," said Julie Lunar, an anthropology major.

"Being a lover of ancient history, I can't help but be drawn to those places where history still lives."

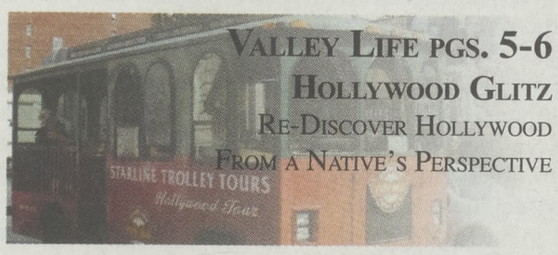
ROMEINFO.COM

Students will stay in apartments three minutes from the Vatican in an Italian neighborhood as a way to soak up a bit of the local culture.

The class, which is transferable to the UC and Cal state systems, costs $2,125, and includes housing with a fully stocked kitchen, all tours and excursions, including day trips to Pompeii and Orvieto, a welcome dinner, an in-depth orientation about the city and access to the Accent resource center in Rome, which has staff available 24 hours a day who will help with just about anything, Accent has operated as an independent study abroad program provider for 20 years..

see *Rome* page 4

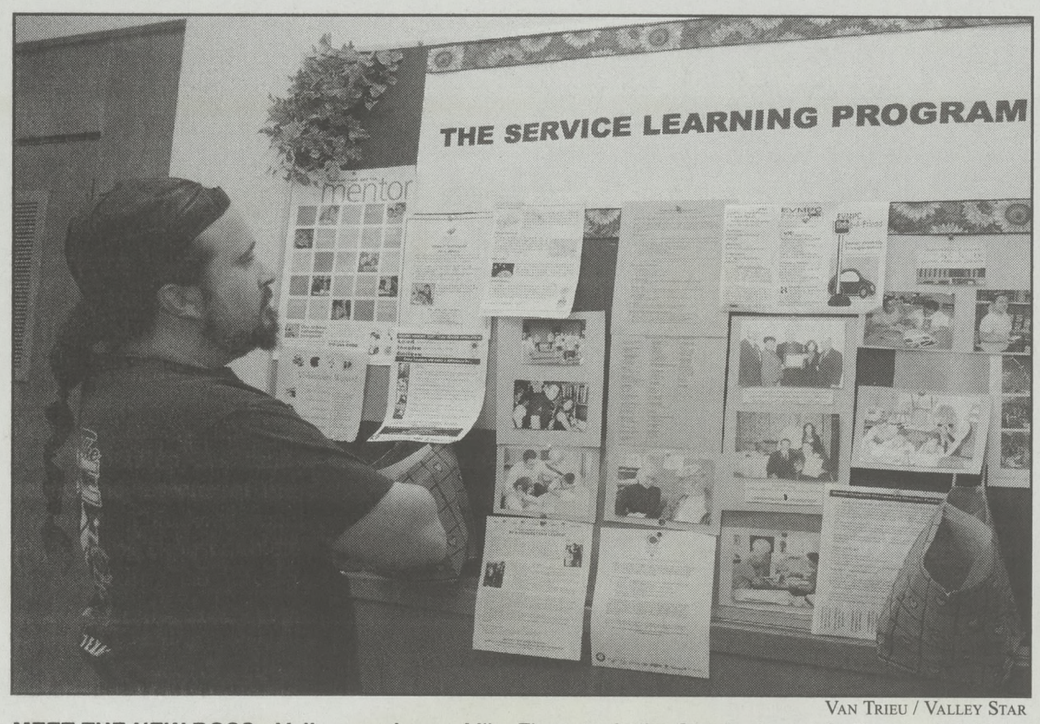
OPINION PG. 3
THE INTERNET
IS IT A HELP OR SIMPLY A MENACE TO PROGRESS?



VALLEY LIFE PGS. 5-6
HOLLYWOOD GLITZ
RE-DISCOVER HOLLYWOOD FROM A NATIVE'S PERSPECTIVE

SPORTS PG. 7
FOOTBALL
MONARCHS RUN OVER THE COMPTON TARTARS FOR THEIR FIRST WIN

GALLERY PG. 8
JENA 6
STUDENTS VOICE THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT RACIAL INJUSTICE IN LOUISIANA



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

MEET THE NEW BOSS - Valley employee, Mike Fiore reads the Service Learning Program's bulletin board to find out what's being offered.

Service Learning Program Encourages Volunteerism

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

There may not be such a thing as purely altruistic volunteering, and while Valley College students are not setting out to disprove this, they are discovering the importance of giving back to their community.

Through the Service Learning Program at Valley, students can help their community by volunteering with non-profit agencies while they earn extra credit in their classes.

"At first I joined the program for the extra credit, but then I enjoyed working at the place I chose and ended up volunteering for the last two or three years," said Karla Lenus, a Business major who volunteered at a donation store for the American Red Cross. [Volunteering] changed my whole perspective. Little things count, and dedicating five to 10 hours can help others in some sort of way."

Twenty-six departments work with the program and there are more than 100 agencies for students to volunteer with. These organizations encompass a wide range of interests, including adolescent social services, health services, animal organizations, with new agencies being added as they ask to be put on the list.

"This is a win-win situation for the students, professors, and Valley College," said Rick Brossman, assistant professor of counseling and director of the Service Learning Program. "Students receive better grades while being exposed to civic responsibility."

According to the Service Learning Success and Retention Rates Comparisons, in spring 2007, students in the program had a 90 percent success rate in their courses, while non-Service Leaning students had only a 62 percent success rate. The program defines a student as successful if they earn an A, B, C, or credit given. A CR implies that a student's work in class is equal to a C or better.

In addition to better grades, Brossman also underscores the importance volunteering has on a college application.

"It's not just about the grades. More and more universities are looking for students that are well grounded. [Volunteering] gives [students] the added dimensions of an applicant," he said.

Although reasons for joining the program vary, for students like Lenus, the art of helping does not stop at the end of the semester.

"I was actually offered a paid job but couldn't take it because I didn't have time," Lenus said. "But I do want to help anybody out there. I want to have my business and help others through donations."

For other students extra credit turns into an opportunity to understand and socialize.

"I gained a lot of respect for the organization, and it was a good way to help and meet people," said Kimberly Duggan, a Nursing major who worked for Tree People.

Interested students are required to volunteer for approximately 15 to 20 hours per semester while keeping a reflection journal that chronicles their experiences as volunteers. Applications can be picked up at the Counseling Department.

Campus Services Available for All Students

BY JOSH SPENCE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The first few weeks of any new semester warrant feelings of anxiety and uncertainty along with excitement. Already two weeks into the semester, new students are adjusting to college level work while veteran students are shaking off the rust summer brought on. So where do students turn to get the help they sorely need?

Valley College offers a number of tutoring labs in many different disciplines to students. Scott Weigand, the director of the college's Writing Center stresses that students can receive help regardless of the subject.

"English, Sociology, Philosophy, Child Development, whatever, writing across the curriculum is the point. If there's any writing component, we can help with it," he said.

The Writing Center offers peer-to-peer tutoring and weekly workshops in addition to a full-service computer lab that offers free printing.

Tutors and staff believe that they can help with any writing assignment, be it essays, research papers, college personal statements, scholarships, speeches, presentations, or creative writing.

If stopping by Humanities 100 conflicts with your schedule, the Writing Center also provides an online tutoring program where students can submit their assignments and expect constructive, individualized feedback on that assignment within 48 hours.

The center's hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays. Appointments are preferred, but unscheduled drop-ins are always welcome. The Writing Center requires students bring their current student identification card and a copy of their current registration receipt. Students can visit the Writing Center's website at http://www.lavc.edu/Wcweb/index.html.

The Learning Center defines jack- of- all- trades. Phyllis Yasuda, the Learning Center's director stated, "I wanted diversity from my faculty." Besides all tutors being required to understand college level math, they also specialize in Economics, Statistics 1, Spanish, French, German, History, Philosophy, and Political Science. The center offers peer-to-peer tutoring along with tutoring from faculty and staff.

The Learning Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In order to see a tutor, a student must have their current Valley identification card and appointments are usually required.

$100 - $300 Daily
Become A Certified
BARTENDER!
80 Hour Course * Hands On Training
Job Placement * Interest-Free Payment Plans
National Bartenders School
(818) 783-0300
www.bartendingworld.com

VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
KRISTEN BECKER

PHOTO EDITOR
PAUL OLDEN

VALLEY LIFE/ SPORTS EDITOR
JOSH SPENCE

OPINION EDITOR
SARAH BISHOP

COPY EDITOR
DIANA QUEZADA

LAYOUT EDITOR
BOB TEICHMANN

STAFF WRITERS
DENNIS ALAMINA
ELIZEDA BELTRAN
JAMES BENNETT
OSCAR CHICAS
SHIELA KOOCHAK
MARISSA MEYER
JESSICA RAWSTRON
ASTRID SEIPELT
BRAD TAYLOR

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
JONATHAN GIBBY
JUAN ROBLES
GRACIELA SALGADO
VAN TRIEU

ADVERTISING MANAGER
CHIP RUDOLPH

ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
www.LAValleyStar.com
(818) 947-2576

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof. **Editorials** are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

Good Student Health for $11

BY MARISSA MEYER
STAFF WRITER

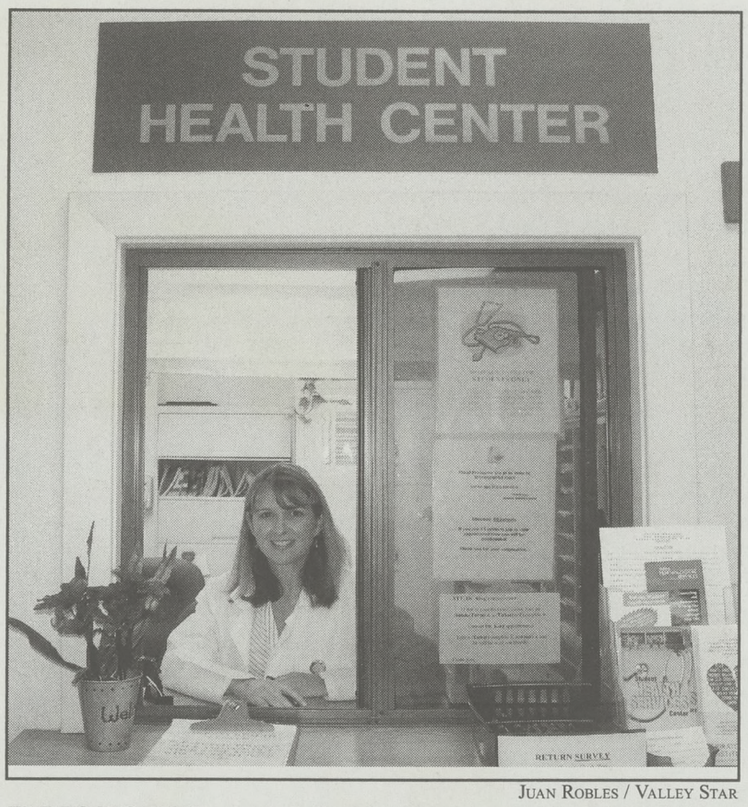
Valley students don't have to go far to see a health physician.

Many students aren't aware of The Health Center at Valley College but it's located in the North Gym. Every semester students pay a health fee of $11 and it's important to know why and how it can come in handy.

"The Health Center is convenient for students when they need testing," Maria Sandoval, a Medical Assistant said. When asked why it's important to have this clinic on campus she explained how it helps people with no insurance. They can get help for little or no cost. At least 15 to 30 students come into the clinic a day.

"I made an appointment at the health center to take a vision test when I realized I couldn't see the writing on the board clearly in class." Kareen Yanco explained. "The doctor told me I needed stronger lenses." Now Yanco has the correct lenses and can read her teachers writings.

The services available include: first aid and urgent care needs, physician and physician assistant services, physical exams, blood pressure screening, vision tests, breast exams, HIV and STD screening, lab testing, and referral services.



JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

THE DOCTOR IS IN - Sonia B. Nodal, a Physician Assistant in the Student Health Center, waits for her next patient to arrive.

The health center is open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Health Center is closed on weekends, college holidays and during term breaks.

Students currently enrolled at Valley can call (818) 947-2918 for an appointment. Also, urgent care and same-day visits are available during clinic hours. All that is needed is your student identification card and your current registration fee receipt.

Valley Students Give Area Beaches a Make-over

BY JAMES BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

Students from Valley College, Los Angeles City College, Van Nuys High School and the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) descended upon Tower 27 at Santa Monica Beach on Sept. 15, National Coastal Cleanup Day, to eradicate the revolting refuse lurking beneath the alabaster sand.

Organized by Heal The Bay and CalPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group) the volunteers excavated bags upon bags of cigarette butts, Styrofoam, paper, and even some evidence of seaside sex; 40 ounce malt liquor bottles included.

Thanked by legions of grateful surfers, boarders, and sunbathers, the cleanup crew worked diligently from 9:00 a.m. to noon. From San Diego to Ventura, the volunteers combed the beaches searching for the artifacts of human indulgence.

The event is one of many social services being organized by CalPIRG and the Associated Student Union. These organizations work within, and outside the walls of Valley. The beach cleanup event pulled about 20 volunteers from various recruiting opportunities.

Daniel Fuentes, the Commissioner of Campus & Environmental Concerns of Valley's Associated Student Union cited the goal of the operation as "helping people, helping the environment, and helping the community."

The organization hosted a mass carpool to the beach as well as handed out flyers with directions to the site. Although the size of the group at Tower 27 was less than gigantic, the combined force of between 20 to 30 groups working up and down the coast was a substantial collection of humanitarians, fighting to vanquish the beast of coastal pollution.

Caitlin Parker, 23, CalPIRG's campus organizer, conveyed the importance of organizing student events on campus. "We find that a lot of people, especially students talk about social issues. Instead of just talking, we want to find solutions and mobilize activists."

Taking on the sinister embrace of seaside schwag is not only beneficial for beachgoers and ocean wildlife, but also the scientific community. CalPIRG will be tallying all their findings and building a comprehensive database to relay to legislators.

For instance, the metrics produced by their research will help shape future laws regarding smoking bans.

In a hypothetical situation, if the team finds that there are far fewer cigarette butts on beaches located near areas with enacted smoking bans, perhaps more seaside communities will endorse anti-smoking legislation like bill 1583. Introduced by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D, West Hollywood) the legislation would ban smoking on all 62 of California's beaches

"It's at a place right now where a lot of things need to be fixed. It's important for students to participate."

Fuentes, used a combination of his ASU and his connections with the NHEC to rally forces for the beach cleanup.

"We need to raise awareness about our environment. It's at a place right now where a lot of things need to be fixed. It's important for students to participate. Not only does it help the environment, but it expands their minds."

Jonathan Greel, a 19-year-old history major attended the beach cleanup and couldn't help but express his love for altruism. "I enjoyed it. It was an excellent opportunity to get involved with the community and an excellent start for me as a young activist."

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

Cyber-Studying is the Best Way to Go

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

If you are a student who doesn't use the Internet to study, then listen up – the age of technology is knocking on your computer screen loud and clear.

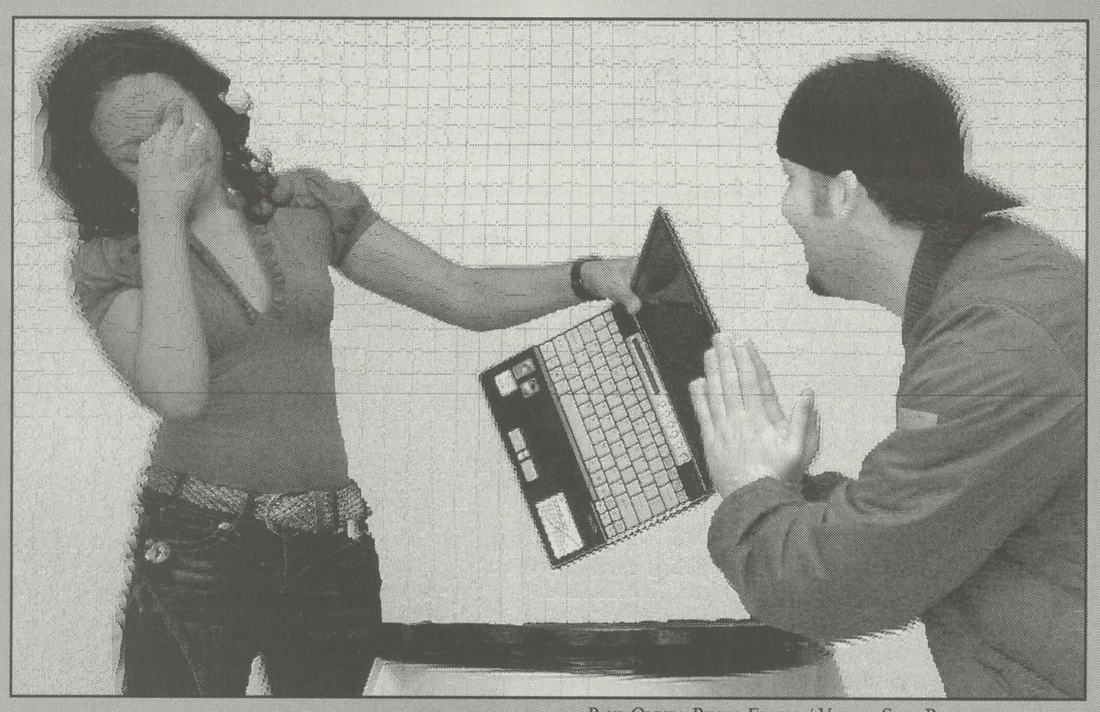
With more everyday things like banking and grocery shopping becoming computer based, it makes sense for those looking for a higher education to look to online resources. A recent survey states that 59 percent of currently enrolled college students use online tools to keep up with their studies and prepare for tests. The World Wide Web is chock-full of study options for savvy students, ranging from online quizzes, instructor-run webpages and a recent innovation, the 'e-book' – an online version of that five-pound book you've been lugging around campus, with the added bonus that you can't spill your morning Red Bull on it, or have it turn dog-eared come semester end.

Valley College supports some of these options, with many classes run completely online. Students can stay in their pajamas and learn from the comfort of their home computer, interacting with their instructor and other virtual classmates through email or in web based chat rooms.

For the scholar who needs to write that midterm or research paper, even the college library has moved into the 21st century. Encyclopedias, periodicals and other resources are all available on the college Web site – you may not even have to set foot in our library and sift through endless musty tomes, or worry about having to return books by their due date. Even Web sites such as Wikipedia.org offer Wikibooks, an online resource where you can access books for free, and no membership is required.

There are some students however, that feel like studying over the Internet is only a distraction. This does have some weight – there are many glitzy celebrity blogs, instant message conversations and, of course, the omnipresent MySpace that are clamoring for your attention. However, the same thing applies to studying online as it does if you study in a library or at home - these are only a distraction if you let them be.

With the pressure that students face to turn in high quality work and maintain good grades, using the Internet as a study tool can only be a positive thing. Any means that we can find to help us get ahead are more than welcome to the modern scholar. And lets face it, if you don't jump on the technology



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION

The Internet: The Great Distraction

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When it comes to tools of procrastination, the Internet is second only to television. Who hasn't wasted time on Myspace or Facebook to avoid writing that paper due tomorrow or chatted about Britney Spears' hijinks with friends on Instant Messenger rather than studying for finals?

According to a study released by textbook publisher Houghton Mifflin, 43 percent of the 896 students questioned named the computer as their "distraction of choice."

While Web sites can fetch information in less time than it takes to blink, it is just as quick at finding blogs, videos and online games that are much more interesting than school-related searchers.

In addition to being a highly effective time waster, the Internet is full of Web sites masquerading biased or untrue information as reliable facts. When I read the Los Angeles Times, I know that the assertions made have been fact checked and are generally reliable. The same cannot be said of many Web sites.

The online encyclopedia Wikipedia is notorious for offering inaccurate information. Like most Web sites, Wikipedia allows its users to edit or add entries on a wide range of topics without much oversight.

Stephen Colbert, for example, encourages his show's audience to change specific Wikipedia entries as he sees fit resulting in multiple changes to the mentioned entries, such as when Colbert insisted people claim that the population of African elephants tripled.

Despite the plethora of unreliable information on the Internet, a Pew Internet and American Life Project study found that 73 percent of the students who participated in the survey said they used the Internet more than the library. According to the same study, only 19 percent used the library more than the Internet for research.

Despite the Internet's infinite access to everything a person could imagine, it can often be a liability. Whether it eats up students' precious time or provides them with bad research information, Web sites can easily overrun your life.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN GIBBY

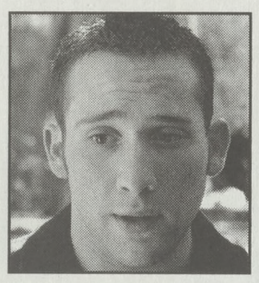
Is the Internet a help or a hinderance for students?

"It's a help because it has more sources for you than anything else. You can basically find anything on the Internet."

Brae Brown
music

"It depends, every technology has a positive and a negative side. The more it helps you the more it also slows you down. I couldn't live now with out the Internet."

Katharina Nimmervoll
undeclared



"It's a help because you have different resources with different forms of information. You just have to differentiate between the ones that are biased."

Josh Strongin
psychology

"I think it's not a waste of time, it has a lot of resources and we can look up research information on the Internet instead of going to the library."

Maria Salanga
bio- chemistry

A Toxic Toy Story

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Drop that Barbie, turn off your Easy Bake Oven and whatever you do, don't tickle your Elmo, because it may kill you. Toys made in China with too much lead-based paint have been flooding American aisles. This comes after several other scares from the People's Republic begging the question, can I trust anything with the label "made in China"?

Major toy companies Mattel and Hasbro have had to recall thousands of toys over the last few months that contained sometimes as much as 160 times the legal amount of lead-tainted paint. This paint can lead to serious developmental disabilities and learning disorders.

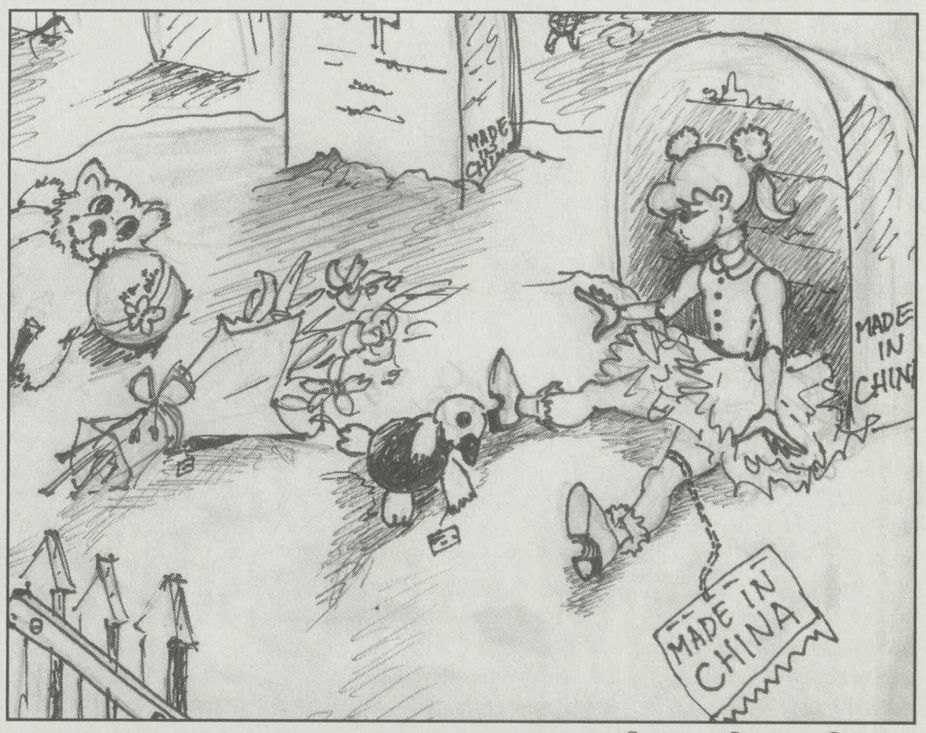
First I worried about poisoning my dog with tainted Chinese-made pet food, then I worried about brushing my teeth with poisonous toothpaste, and now I need to freak out over Barbie shoes and her dream puppy house and kitty condo! Even DVDs aren't safe, as I personally had to remove dozens of "Thomas the Tank Engine" videos off the shelf because they included cute little toy trains in the packaging as a bonus gift, but the trains were deemed too toxic and needed an instant recall.

Things look even worse for lower income families who buy generic toys made by much smaller toy companies who are not as responsible as the majors like Mattel. And it is also important to keep an eye on larger store chains who may give away some of those Barbies to grateful but unknowing parents.

So many things we use in our daily routines are made in China. Trying to figure out the exact number would be staggering. Now that I am paranoid about my pets, my kids and my teeth what could be next? This certainly does not bode well for my Christmas shopping.

In July, China executed the former head of state for food and drug administration, Zheng Xiaoyu, for "dereliction of duty" and taking about $850,000 in bribes from the manufacturers of substandard medicines that had been blamed for several deaths. A harsh punishment, but one that shows the country means business when dealing with corporate criminals.

In the meantime, between executions we should all check the news and be a lot more mindful of the products we buy and look for "made in America" on the label. And whatever you do, never turn your back on Barney.



COURTESY OF PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN

It's Bush's Believe It or Not

BY JESSICA RAWSTRON
STAFF WRITER

President Bush announced two weeks ago that conditions in Iraq have improved enough to start bringing some U.S. troops home, and urged Americans divided over the war to support suggestions made by Gen. David Petraeus.

It's been four and a half years of delaying the war in Iraq and 33,777 American deaths, it's about time Bush acknowledged the need for troop recovery. Although my natural instinct is to question this presidential address and its validity– I will credit Bush for accepting such wise suggestions. The question is, will he use them wisely? If these proposals are applied in Iraq and the military, they could be the beginning to the end of the war. However, this may also be the next step to adding months, or years to this never-ending war on terror.

Gen. Petraeus has proposed that due to the success of the Iraqi army and its cooperation, we can maintain our security gains with fewer American forces; Bush commented on Petraeus' proposal by calling it the "Return on Success"- meaning the more success we have in Iraq, the more troops we can send home. This translates to sending the 2,200 Marines scheduled to leave Anbar Province home at the end of this month without replacing them. In addition, it may be possible to bring home an entire Army combat brigade- totaling a force reduction of 5,700 troops by Christmas.

However, these numbers do not account for thousands of support forces sent out in January, which include military police and an Army combat aviation brigade — that were sent as "enablers" and may be staying longer.

According to the president, these proposals are said to possibly enforce the transitioning into our next phase in Iraq. Instead of completely overseeing Iraq, we will eventually play as a partner to them. Our military will focus on more limited tasks such as counter-terrorism operations and helping to train and arm Iraqi forces. Ultimately our troops will take a step back and give Iraq an opportunity to run their own country again. The U.S. troops have done enough in Iraq to help them rebuild. The troops as well as President Bush are no longer in a position to rule over Iraq and have been there far too long to begin with.

With guidance from the National Security Team, Iraqi officials and leaders of both parties in Congress, Bush is gladly accepting these recommendations. In order to prove to the public that these ideas are being put into effect, Bush has directed Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker to update their joint campaign plan for Iraq, so we can adjust our military and civilian resources accordingly. He has also directed them to provide a report to Congress in March, which will provide a fresh assessment of troop and security levels to meet our national security objectives.

What it all boils down to is setting the relationship straight between the United States and Iraq. According to Bush, Iraqi leaders support these decisions to withdraw, and Americans will agree because not only does it allows people on opposing sides of the debate to come together, but because the success of a "free Iraq" is critical to the security of the United States.

I wholeheartedly agree that we should all have a vital interest in avoiding chaos. Clearly, Bush has not exercised that belief in the last four and a half years. Maybe Bush is turning over a new leaf…or maybe he is just looking for a way to distract Iraq and the United States, to waste more time and money on the war. Sen. Edward Kennedy makes a very valid point, "It's clear that President Bush intends to drag this process out month after month, year after year, so that he can hand his Iraqi policy off to the next president."

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

SPEAKING UP - Valley College student Derail Armstrong, 25, was among several demostrators who met in Monarch Square to voice their support for the "Jena 6" Thursday. Six black teeenagers were charged with attempted murder in the beating of a white teen in a small Louisiana town where racial tensions connected to the incident-labeled the "Jena 6", have resulted in nationwide protests.

'Jena'

continued from page 1

Haynes. "These students need to be active in their future. It doesn't matter what color you are."

There were dozens of testimonials by angry students who urged everyone to get involved and be informed. BSU members handed out flyers educating those who were unfamiliar with the issue as well as having two laptops set up for anyone to sign a Website petition to free the "Jena 6."

"One the ways you can get involved is with the student union," urged ASU vice president Jamoceo Black. "Our voices are very powerful on campus."

The protesters marched around Monarch Square chanting and raising their signs while they encouraged anyone listening to attend more protests that would be held across the city Thursday in what they called the "National Awareness Day." Although activists from around the country made the pilgrimage to Jena, Louisiana to participate in the demonstration organized by the likes of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, protests were also held around Los Angeles and in cities such as Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Washington, DC in support the "Jena 6."

"I didn't even realize this was going on," said curious student Daniel Davis. "It is just shocking that something like this is going on and it's good to let people know."

Students and instructors continued to gather in between classes and listen to the words of anger and hope from the passionate protesters who wanted to make sure their voices were heard.

'Family'

continued from page 1

quality early childhood education that has an impact on the child in later years, but also assuring that the child has a positive experience right now."

The Child Development Department features three new programs brought to us by grant money. Firstly, the Career Technical/Economic and Workforce Development Pathways program will reach out to local high school counselors and child development careers teachers to orchestrate a clear line of matriculation for students interested in working in the child development field; a $250,000 grant to be spent over 2 years.

The second is the State Chancellor Industry Driven Regional Collaborative, this 2-year program will provide toddler special needs training for incumbent childcare workers; a $505,653 grant to be spent over 2 years. Lastly, Valley received a grant supporting the creation and development of the Career and Academic Success Team, or CAST. This team will address the needs of Child Development and Early Childhood Education students with the goal of increasing recruitment, retention, completion, and job placement. CAST is based on a $1,087,626 grant to be spent over 3 years.

The Family Resource Center is open to the whole community. Parents can come in to discuss matters concerning them, their family, and their children. The Center staffed by professionals and Valley interns; giving students hands-on experience with babies. The Family Resource Center can be located on the Valley campus in Bungalow 49.

'Rome'

continued from page 1

The $40 class enrollment and the flight are not included. One of the reasons Visco set the sign up date for the trip so far in advance was because she realized that many students would need time to save up money.

"I made it two weeks because it's much less expensive," she said. "I'm trying to make study abroad available to people who might not be able to afford a four week program."

Financial aid can be used to cover the enrollment fee, but not the larger bill. Because scholarships can be used for just about anything related to academics, Visco encourages interested students to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

"I am very glad they gave an early notice on this because I can save up the money slowly with the job I currently have," said Luis Alvarez, an English and Italian major.

Visco explained that Valley has been looking to expand its study abroad program for a few years and when they hired her in 2005, her experience leading Italian study abroad classes was part of her appeal.

Annie Reed, administrator of the study abroad program, said that these types of programs help the school by creating awareness of the college as a school in and of itself, not just as a transfer school.

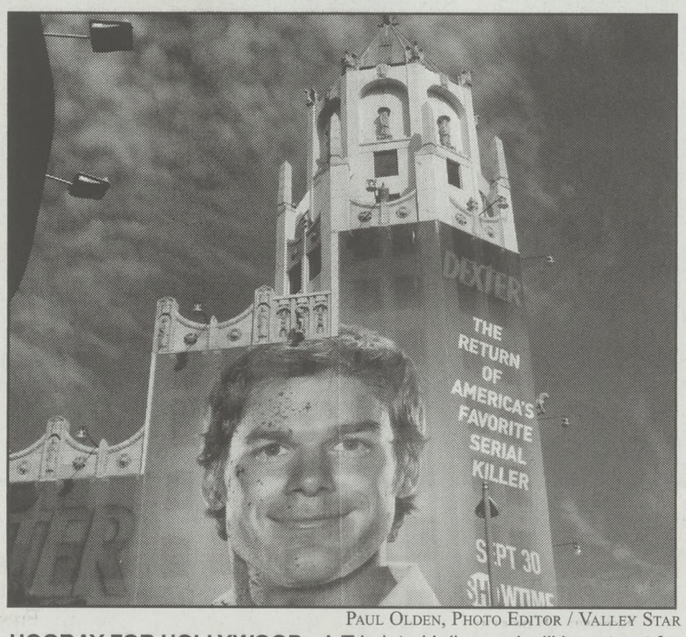
"Having an institutionalized study abroad program creates credibility," she said. "And provides an experience that matches nothing else. You can touch it, feel it, and absorb the culture."

The foreign language department already runs a summer trip to Paris, but what makes the Rome trip unique is that as a history class, there is no Italian pre-requisite.

Although many Italians speak English, Visco does suggest learning some basic conversational Italian.

She encourages students to look up the details online at www.lavc.edu/romestudyabroad. While attendance at the Oct. 15 informational meeting isn't required to participate in the program, it is recommended as she will be there to answer questions. The program runs from June 13 to 27, 2008.

HOLLYWOOD GLITZ



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD - A Trip into Hollywood will be a treat for any fan of the movies and TV. You never know who's watching you.

Additional content online - Go to LAValleyStar.com

TAG. YOU'RE IT!
Free trip to Israel
POST NO BILLS
IT'S YOUR TURN.
More than 145,000 Jewish young adults have already received the gift of a free, ten-day educational trip to Israel with Taglit-birthright israel. They have stood at the Western Wall, hiked Masada at dawn, enjoyed Tel Aviv nightlife, floated in the Dead Sea and ridden camels through the Negev. Now, it's your turn.
To learn more and to register for Winter 2007-2008 trips, visit www.birthrightisrael.com.
www.birthrightisrael.com
TAGLIT · תגלית
birthright israel
www.birthrightisrael.com

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

VALLEY SPORTS

Wednesday, September 26

Women's Water Polo
Vs Ventura College
At Ventura
4:15 pm

Friday, September 28

Cross Country
Bakersfield Invitational
At Bakersfield
3:00 pm

Men's Water Polo
Vs Cerritos
At Cerritos
2:00 pm

Soccer
Vs Canyons*
At Valley
4:00 pm

Saturday, September 29

Football
Vs Citrus Owls
At Valley
7:00

Tuesday, October 2

Soccer
Vs Bakersfield
At Valley
4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 3

Men's Water Polo
Vs Riverside
At Riverside
3:00 pm

Friday, October 5

Cross Country
So. Cal Preview
At Irvine Regional Park
10:00 am

Soccer
Vs Glendale
At Glendale
7:00 pm

Friday and Saturday October 5-6

Men's Water Polo
Citrus Tournament
At Citrus
TBA

Women's Water Polo
Ventura College Tournament
At Ventura
TBA

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transfer application deadline is November 30.
Guarantee your transfer admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program.

Wednesday, September 26

UC Irvine Rep 10-2
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30-6:30

Thursday, September 27

UC Santa Barbara Rep 10-1

Monday, October 1

College Application Workshop 5:30-6:30

Tuesday, October 2

College application Workshop 1-2pm

All activities in Career/Transfer Center(Administration 126). For further information and sign-up call the Career/Transfer Center (818) 947-2646 or stop by

Orange Line — A Link to Hollywood

By Sarah Bishop
Opinion Editor

Here were my options on Friday after school: go home, crash and watch television or set out on an adventure. I decided I should go check out the city that millions of people visit. Surely it had more to offer than "Reba" reruns.

So I grabbed my photographer friend, Paul and we hopped onto the lumbering Orange Line bus to North Hollywood and transferred to the Red Line to get to the real thing: Hollywood.

In less than half an hour, we were climbing the three steep flights of stairs to the top of Hollywood and Highland. When we emerged there were ambulance sirens, musicians hawking CDs, a man dressed in loincloth taming plastic cobras, and of course, Tigger. All of this would definitely not have been on the tele, well not all at once anyway.

That's part of the beauty of venturing out, the chance to interact with all sorts of people. Granted most of the folks in costume want tourists to pay them for a snapshot, so that limits conversation to "Smile" and "How much?" But it does allow for some good people-watching when the red double-decker tour bus unleashes a gaggle of tourists onto the star-stamped sidewalk.

Paul Olden Photo Editor. Valley Star

GETTING AROUND - While in Hollywood, you can get around in any number of ways. We saw people on foot, in cars, on bikes and skateboards and here on the trolley.

Paul and I drifted for a bit, exploring our options. The Kodak Theater, to our right, the El Capitan straight in front, and Ripley's Wax Museum and Church of Scientology to our left. The streets were lined with all sorts of shops: kitschy, industry driven, and fun.

Of course the one day it rains in L.A. is the same day I decide to get a wild hair. The clouds had been looming and as it began to rain we ducked into the Guinness Museum. There we learned factoids I no longer remember, tried to take quizzes on busted machines, and pointed out the factual errors posted behind Plexiglas. For example, I know my cousin can eat more than 345 hotdogs in a single sitting, and myriad doesn't need an "of" after it.

We should have skipped the Wax Museum, but because it's included in the Guiness Museeum ticket price, we went in anyway. It's so sad that people (I mean me and Paul) have to pay to see hackneyed portrayals of movie stars. Paul formulated a theory that the museum is under contractual obligation to not make the statues too life-like. This seems a sound conclusion.

As a final stop we popped into Lucky Strike for a game. With its disco lights and intermittent collision sounds, it's hard to imagine the bowling alley as a lounge. But with beer in hand, sinking into to the banquette, I suddenly had no trouble relaxing. And in what should be called the serendipitous nature of this kind of trip, a friend I grew up with in Texas happened to be bowling in the lane right next to ours.

It's strange to think of all the things I would have missed if I had simply gone home after school. Few places exist in the world where you can get a tattoo, find that perfect neon blue Elizabethan wig, see a friend you haven't seen in years, buy a peach, receive an impromptu sermon, and see a live show all within a city block. Think on that the next time you pass the Orange Line bus stop.

Blog is The New Black

By Brad Taylor
Staff Writer

Searching the Internet you will find no shortage of blogs, but which ones are worth your valuable time, and which are just filling up cyberspace?

A blog, for those of you not in the know is just a shortened wording for a weblog, an online journal that is usually themed and updated on a frequent basis. There are currently more than 14 million blogs online with about 80,000 being born every day.

There are so many out there that most of you reading this may have your very own blog. And everyone from celebrities to politicians are rushing to let their opinions be known, so I thought I would give my top 5 weblogs for your pleasure.

5-TMZ.com: Forget Perez Hilton, this blog offers the best in up to minute entertainment news in the form of gossip and videos sent in by just about everyone. Their knack for getting court records and deeply buried info make this THE spot for the un-filtered buzz.

4-CuteOverLoad.com: Check your blood sugar level before going to this site. The cutest animal blog out there boasts some really great posts and captions. If you are stressed out before a test or just want to smile, then you won't regret adopting this site.

3-Blog.NBC.com/ross_blog: For a fun and refreshing perspective on celebrity visit Ross "The Intern" Matthews' blog. Fresh from the "Tonight Show" and "Celebrity Fit Club" Mathews has some great stories and is good-natured in his ribbing of himself and the stars he interviews.

2-ColbertNation.com: Politics make my head hurt. Thankfully I have Stephen Colbert to help sort everything out. And his "Colb-Blog" is outrageous and a complete sell-out, but at least he is honest about it.

1-BlogCritics.org: 217 Freelance writers cover the latest books and movies and everything in between. You can find out about a local film festival or the latest on the war. Real writers with real opinions, as basic and true as the Internet gets.

MOVIE REVIEW

Strawberry Fields Forever

By Josh Spence
Valley Life Editor

If there ever was a film that truly displayed the beauty of the Beatles' music in a realistic setting, "Across the Universe" is that film.

Director Julie Taymor uses lush surroundings and attractive young people who can sing to tell the story of Jude (Jim Sturgess), a young dock worker from Liverpool, who comes to America in search of his biological father and ends up getting swept into the counter culture movement of the 1960s. Amidst all the bohemians, Jude meets Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood) and they immediately fall for each other.

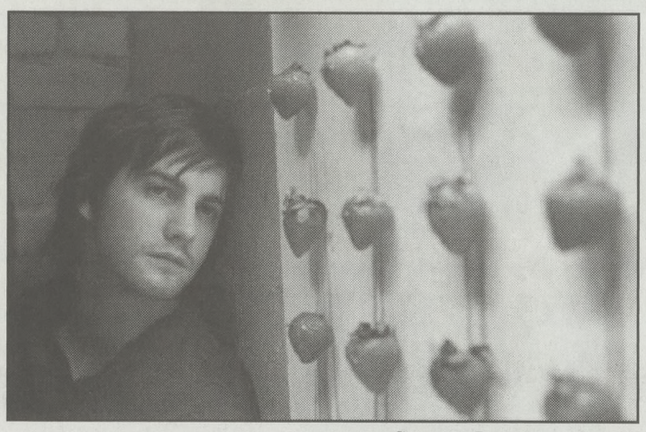
While the relationship between Jude and Lucy is the focal point of the film, Taymor, does a good of job of incorporating other historic elements of the decade, such as the Watts Riots and the Vietnam War.

This is not to say that "Across the Universe" didn't have moments of extremely obvious references to Beatles mythology in it. Fourteen of the film's characters have names that refer to Beatles song titles. Jude's best friend Max starts his own record label "Strawberry Jam," which is a similar play on words to the Beatles personal record label, Apple Corps. Jude's drawing of an apple is the same as logo for Apple Corps.

While incorporating the Beatles folklore into the film is interesting and necessary, the characters are conventionally underdeveloped. Taymor does this because that is all she wants you to know about them. The backstory is not terribly important, it's about being in the moment, a tenet The Beatles strongly incorporated in their songwriting and it works great for this film.

Unsurprisingly, the vocal performances in this musical were terrific. Besides being incredibly charming in the film, Sturgess has the timbre of both Paul McCartney and John Lennon, which gives the songs a sense of familiarity. Given Evan Rachel Wood's voice, it's a real wonder she's not singing instead of making great independent films, a gospel church choir made "Let it Be", an already perfect song, better. Of all the great performances, Joe Cocker comes out of nowhere and plays not one, but three different characters and adds extra soul to a film already brimming with heart.

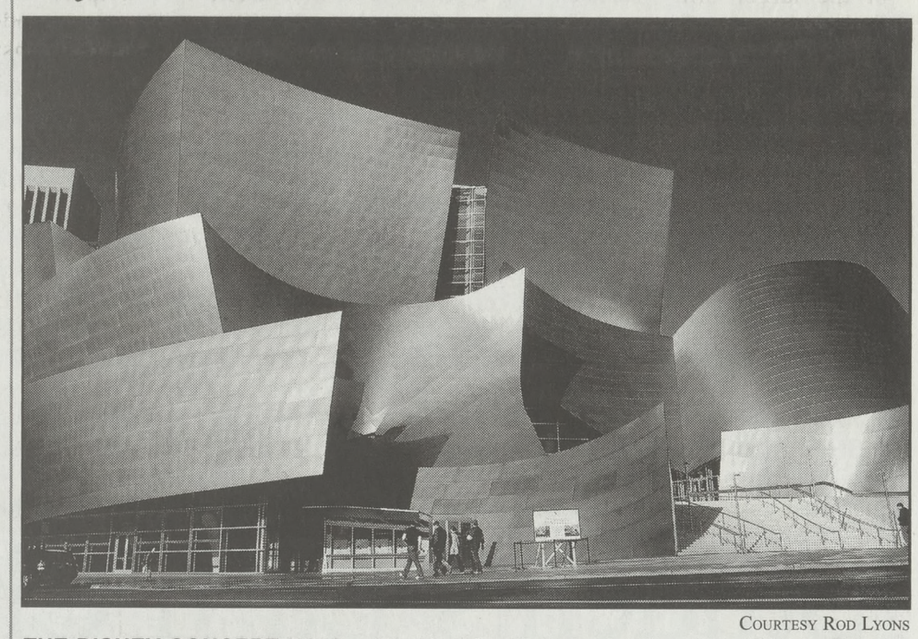
A must see for all Beatle fans. "Across the Universe" stays true to The Beatles most important tenet, "All you need is love."



Courtesy Revolution Studios

VALLEY PEOPLE

Lyons Focuses Lens on Truth



Courtesy Rod Lyons

THE DISNEY CONCERT HALL - Already a Los Angeles landmark, the Disney Concert Hall attracts many photographers like Valley College's Rod Lyons.

By Josh Spence
Valley Life Editor

As reluctant as Roderick Lyons may be to pose in front of the camera, he is more than willing to take charge from behind it.

Lyons, the Journalism/Photography Dept. Chair, has a signature style of black and white urban landscapes that has been shown in exhibitions at UCLA, The Black Gallery, California African-American Museum, and Borders Book Store in Santa Monica. His book, "A Day in the Life of Black L.A." was published in 1992.

As his most recent achievement, Lyons' portfolio of photos of the Disney Concert Hall in Downtown L.A. were featured in Lenswork Magazine.

Lyons decided to keep his acheivement so low key that his peers were not aware of his accomplishment.

"I happened to be reading lenswork at night because it is one of my favorite magazines and I see this name that says Roderick Lyons and I think, 'I know a Rod Lyons," said Dr. Laurie Nalepa, Dean of Academic Affairs. "I quickly flip to it and I see that it's our Rod and I literally called him at 11 pm and I said ,'Rod, It's me Laurie, I can't believe you're in one of my favorite magazines and I'm so proud. This is really great."

While being published is always a good thing, Lyons is proud of his work for another reason.

"This experiment has opened up an entirely new photographic expression to me in terms of subject and ways of seeing," said Lyons. "It's invigorating."

"As a photographer," said Nalepa, "I thought that it showed a real understanding of light and shade. It was very poetic in the way [Lyons] presented the architecture."

In addition to impressionist painting, poetry and jazz, Lyons' major influences in photography are W. Eugene Smith and Gordon Parks. Known for directing the blaxploitation film "Shaft," Parks was an amazing photo essayist who took portraits of Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X and Stokeley Carmichael, leader of the activist group Black Panthers. Smith was widely known for his extreme professionalism and brutally vivid World War II photos.

Lyons has learned from these two photographers and has developed his own signature style.

"Except for the occasional portrait, I work primarily in black and white," Lyons explained. "Black and white photography is already an abstract medium. I feel that I have more freedom to interpret my subject matter, therefore, more freedom of self-expression."

While all three men may have different styles, they all have one thing in common, the desire to bring out the truth in their subjects.

"My subject matter will continue to be urban and social landscape. But just as Ansel Adams photographed "weather" (a description of how he saw light), I want to make images that reveal truth, but in the final analysis are also beautiful photographs."

Lyons' career in photography started in 1970 as a student at the U.S. Air Force School of Photography. "It was love at first sight," said Lyons, recalling his genesis as a photographer. "From portraits to forensics to fine art, I've been making some kind of images ever since."

Taking pictures of social and urban landscapes is still a creative outlet for Lyons, but teaching has yielded greater rewards.

"Truly the greatest gift I have received in life is the ability to "see" the world as a photographer. The second greatest gift is to share the things that I have seen."

Silver takes the Gold at the Emmy's

By James Bennett
Staff Writer

Sitting in the leather office chair with a bottle of merlot in his hands Steve Silver ponders his recent success. "I didn't expect to win anything. It's something I could never dream possible" He speaks in a quite voice, free of pomp and grandeur. Steve is a cinematographer and had just won an Emmy award for Outstanding Cinematography in a Multi-Camera Series for "Two and a Half Men".

In his on-set office; a picture of his kid being the only marking on his door. "Grossly underfinanced, for what they're working with, it's a tremendous accomplishment." Steve isn't talking about his own studio, he's talking about our studio. Steve attended Valley College over two decades ago. He was a member of the Cinema Arts department under Valley College professor Joseph Daccurso. Valley College was the first place Steve got into film, who recounts that he "wasn't interested in Hollywood until I took Film Appreciation. I was so inspired by the class I decided to take more classes, it was then that I had that 'AHA! Moment.'" Thanks to the Valley College Cinema Arts department he was given the opportunity to get behind a camera for the first time. He took 101 and had the chance to break out a Super8 camera and get down to business; and while doing so, decided to enter "the business".

From that point on Steve worked his way up the industry ladder. Throughout his career he worked on the "A-Team," "Air Wolf," "Fall Guy," and "The Dukes of Hazard." Eventually he became a big-name Cinematographer; he's got that "stick to it-ivity" as Daccurso says. "Steve's recognition is big time and wonderful. I get some of my biggest kicks when I see [past Cinema students] names in screen credits." Professor Daccurso was brought in to build the Valley College Cinema Arts program in the '70s. Professor Daccurso is known for his tough love, but is undoubtedly passionate about teaching at Valley.

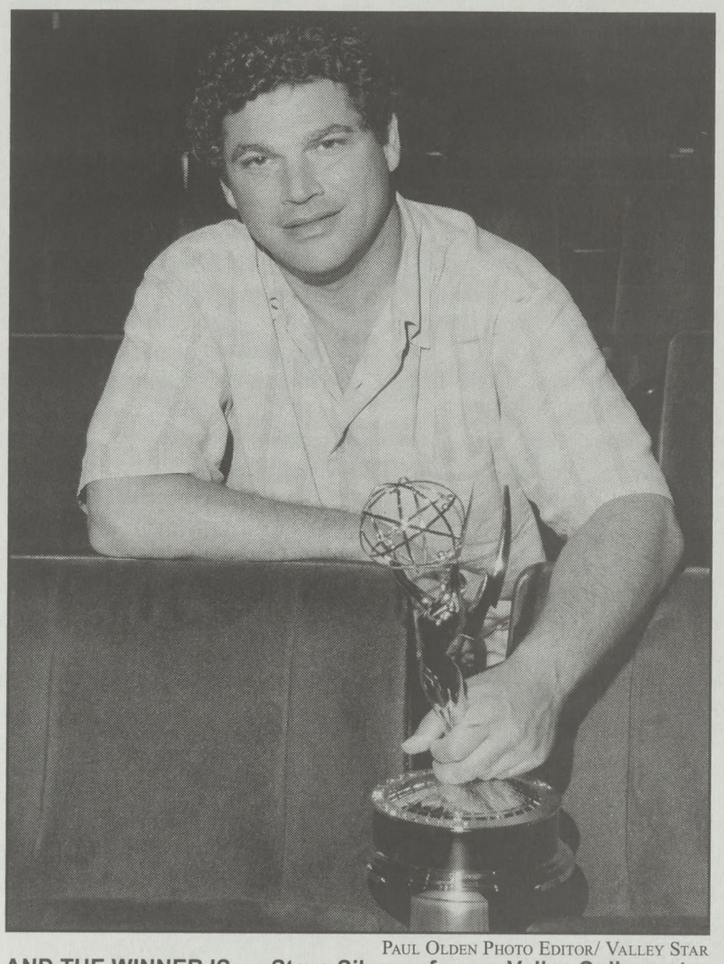
"I became a teacher because I wanted to share my knowledge and experience. Looking back at my five college degrees, I wanted to give back. I figured students in the Community Colleges really appreciate the education they are being given. They appreciate the fact that they are offered a quality education at an affordable rate.

Valley College alums aren't strangers to the silver screen. Recently "PatriotS Act…PEACE PRESS" has gotten into more than ten film festivals around the country. The documentary was done by students and directed and produced by Professor Daccurso. Throughout their tour they ran into several other Valley College alums, at one point running into six other alums on one program. "It's like six degrees of separation" remarked Professor Daccurso.

"We have to prepare people here for the real world; a lot of it is survivorship." Professor Daccurso remembers Steve from decades past, surprising when you consider he has hundreds upon hundreds of students every year. "I saw in him a great potential, if not a full bonfire, certainly a flicker of the passion. It's not just creativity, a lot of it is blood, sweat, and tears."

Professor Daccurso spoke of the need to not only talk the talk, but also walk the walk. Steve Silver not only walked the walk, he walked the stairway to heaven; pounding the power chords of a cinematic virtuoso.

"PatriotS Act... PEACE PRESS" has gotten into more than ten film festivals around the country.



Paul Olden Photo Editor/ Valley Star
AND THE WINNER IS ... -Steve Silver, a former Valley College student (class of '82) was a recent EMMY Award winner for Director of Photography for the hit CBS show, Two and a Half Men.

Preliminary iPOD Reviews Receive Sour Apples from Students

By Astrid Seipeilt
Staff Writer

It's become a modern day status symbol on our campus – small, white earbuds trailing off into a purse or pants pocket and the listener bopping along to their chosen tunes. You are sure to see more of them at Valley in the next few months, with the marketing extraordinaires at Apple releasing two new iPods in the beginning of September, and lowering the price of the wildly popular iPhone.

Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple and possibly the most loved man by tech-geeks everywhere, surprised iPod fans on September 5 by unveiling the next generation of the iPod Nano, the iPod Touch, and knocking $200 off the 8GB iPhone.

The iPod touch is the younger sister of the iPhone, minus the phone and boasting a smaller frame. The 3rd Generation iPod nano has been redesigned and now comes with the capability to watch movies and the highest resolution color screen ever made.

The September release of these popular gadgets is sure to put them on the top of your Christmas shopping list – or make you hope that you were good enough this year to find one in your Santa stocking.

"I'd love to buy the iPod Touch, but I'm waiting for Christmas to see if anyone will get the 16GB version for me," said Apple aficionado Javier Vasquez. "And if you wait a little longer to buy it, it may go down in price, or it could get a redesign."

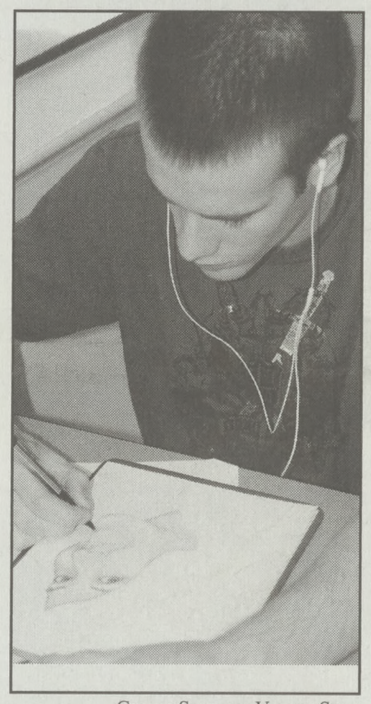
However, other students won't be racing to their local store to snap up the next generation of pocket boom boxes.

"Mine isn't that old, so there is no point buying one just because." said iPod owner Bryan Valle, 21. "I don't really use my iPod to watch movies, I have my PSP for that."

There has also been a mixed reaction to the price slash of the recently released iPhone, with prospective buyers thrilled that they can save some cash. However, internet blogs were ablaze with iPhone owners crying sour apples. Jonathan Diaz, 25, bought the iPhone August 30 and received the cash back a week later.

"I bought the iPhone because I was too lazy to do some proper research," said Diaz. "But I really like it – I'm even thinking of getting one for my brother as his Christmas present.

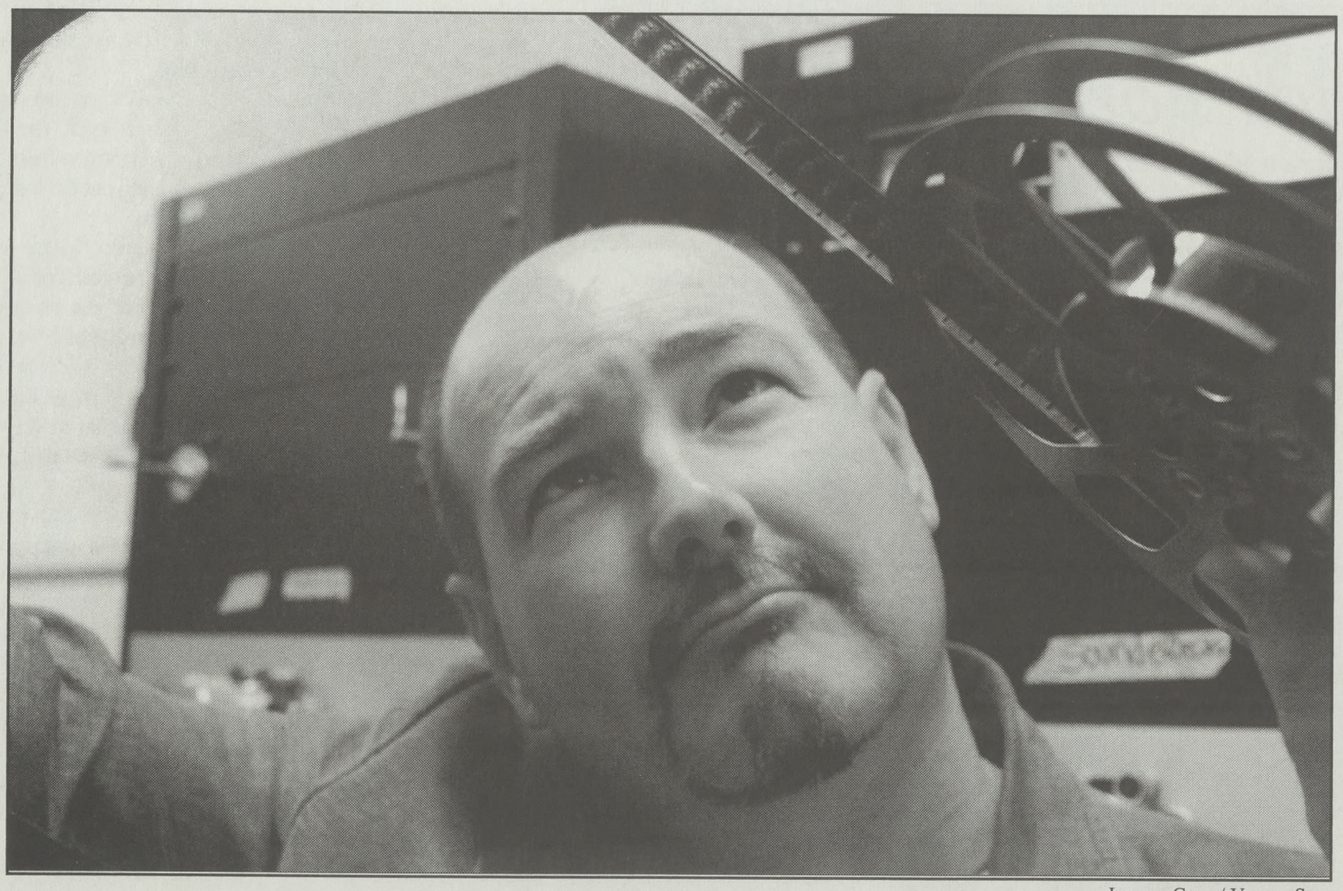
All things Apple are everywhere you look, but if you're a cash strapped student, here is an idea – grab that apple you're munching on, stick some headphones in it, and pretend for the meantime that its playing all your favourite ditties.



Gracie Salgado Valley Star
iPod Lover drowns out world while drawing in cafeteria.

Students Earn Chops with Horror Film

VALLEY PEOPLE



Johnny Gibby/ Valley Star
AND THE WINNER IS ... -Steve Silver, a former Valley College student (class of '82) was a recent EMMY Award winner for Director of Photography for the hit CBS show, Two and a Half Men.

By Brad Taylor
Staff Writer

A group of lucky Valley College students had some bloody fun over the summer after being recruited by Professor Eric Swelstad to work on the set of a new horror film.

"The Curse of Lizzie Borden 2" lured the media art chair back to the director's chair with the prospect of getting back to the horror genre he loves so much, and even more alluring was the chance to work with cutting edge high definition video that makes gore even gorier.

Swelstad also saw the opportunity to bring along some of his more promising media arts students along for some hands-on horror fun. A handful of budding film makers volunteered to be put through the paces over several weeks of intense location shots and working with an axe wielding maniac.

"The student crew was incredible proving their worth to the entire production," said Swelstad. "So much so in fact, that the producer of the film, David Sterling, and others have asked to hire them again in the very near future."

His college crew was eager to get their hands dirty and take a stab at all the challenges of working with professionals on a horror film. The gruesome production also proved to be eye opening for some of the novices.

"It was a genre I hadn't paid much attention to," said student Andy Ramachandran on his impressions of horror films. "Now that I know about the art and craft behind it I find it a lot more interesting."

However as with most film shoots, this one had it's share of scary moments. When filming an axe murderer the students needed to be ready for anything. Location changes, noisy neighbors and late hours were just a few of the hurdles faced, but in the end the students learned stay on their toes.

"You have to plan ahead," proclaims student director of photography Orestes Gonzalez. "It is important to always have a plan B."

Between grisly shots and comedic gore the Valley crew were excited to make industry contacts and get their names onto the Internet Movie Data-Base.

"The best part was having experience of working on a feature film," said student Emery Wheeler. "The networking was great, meeting all the different actors and crew."

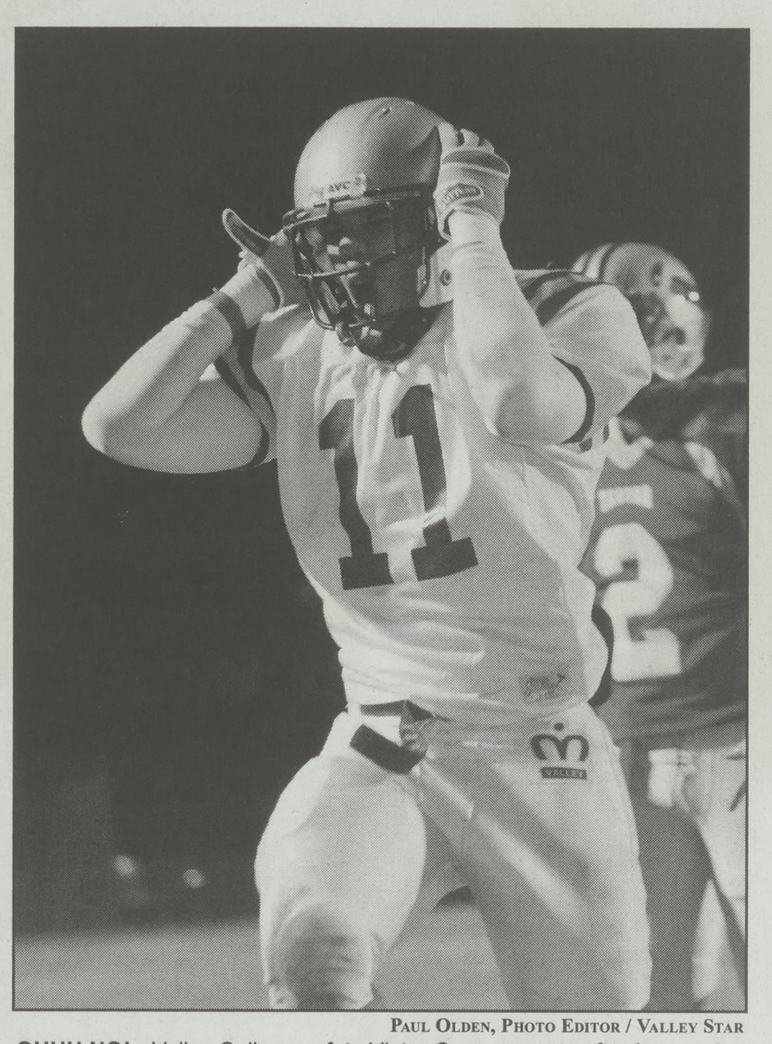
The students have universal praise for their director and they are all thankful for the crash course training.

"I learned more in seven days than I could have in any class," said student Shervin Ahdout. "It was invaluable."

The film is now in post-production, and Swelstad hopes to have the premier at Valley College later this year. And I am sure his student crew are dying to see the final cut.

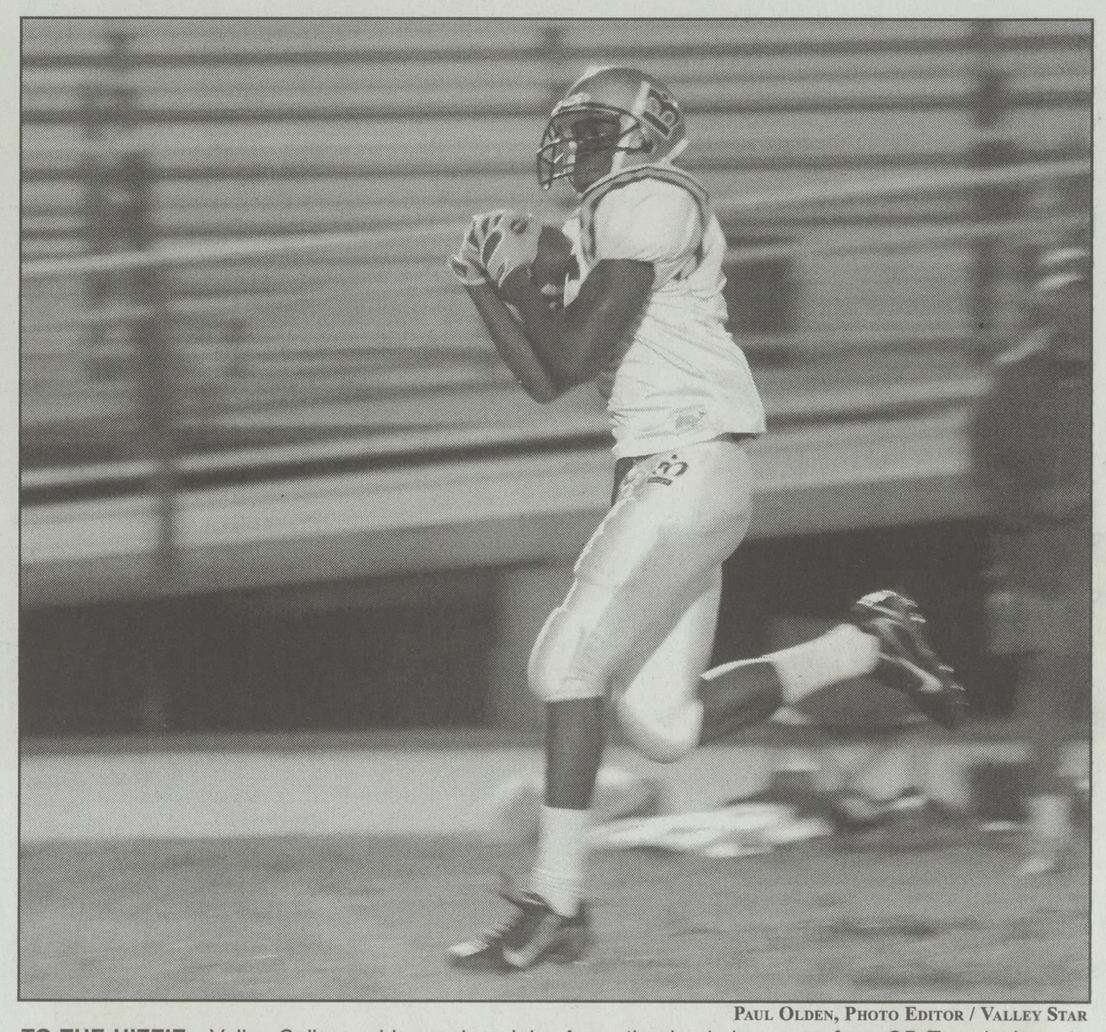
WSC FOOTBALL

Monarchs Defeat Compton on the Road



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

OHHH NO! - Valley College safety Victor Cooper reacts after he dropped a potential interception in the Monarchs' 14-6 win over Compton College last Saturday at Cabrillo High School in Long Beach.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

TO THE HIZZIE - Valley College wide receiver John Augustine hauls in a pass from QB Troy Jackson to complete a 55 yard touchdown play in the 2nd quarter of the Monarchs 14-6 win over Compton College in a game played at Cabrillo High School in Long Beach last Saturday.

NOTES

James Walker ran for 115 yards, his first career 100-yard game. The teams combined for 284 penalty yards and seven turnovers. Valley converted 7-15 first downs. Compton's Steve Tirogene caught six passes for 71 yards. Compton starting quarterback Marcus Allen was knocked out the game in the first series with an injured hand. The first half took two hours and fifteen minutes to complete, while the second half took only an hour.

Valley (1-3, 1-1) takes on the Citrus College Owls Saturday, September 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Monarch Stadium.

QUOTES

Anthony Kahill about interception return:
"I just stuck with my assignment and the coaches put us in position to make plays."

Defense keeping them in the game:
"We just stopped them when we needed to stop them. In crunch time we were able to step up and make plays."

Head Coach Jimmy Sims about first win:
"The kids fought hard today and did everything they could to win the game. I'm just happy for them. We work hard all the time, you know. We just haven't been able to execute. We've had a lot of turnovers. We had 12 turnovers in our first two games."

About running game:
"We were able to make adjustments. They were doing different things on defense and we caught them in a couple. That's just the game of football. The coaches upstairs are working hard enough to make those adjustments. It's really nothing special. We've been running those plays all year."

About QB situation:
"Because Jackson has been playing all year and Grantin has not. He's worked hard all year and we thought we could get him some more reps. We were actually going to put Jackson in in the fourth quarter, but he asked if he could have one more series and he did well, so we kept him in."

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Opponent	Date
Citrus**	9/29
BYE	10/6
@ East LA*	10/13
Ventura**	10/20
@ Glendale**	10/27

Valley earns the first victory of the season at the expense of Compton

BY ERIC L. PATTEN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

COMPTON—After a first half marred by penalties and turnovers, the Valley College Monarchs took control of the line of scrimmage, and the game, as they narrowly defeated the Compton Tartars 14-6 on Saturday for their first win of the season.

"The kids fought hard today and did everything they could to win the game. I'm just happy for them," said head coach Jimmy Sims.

It wasn't just the victory that stood out, but how the Monarchs managed to control both sides of the ball.

On the damp Cabrillo High School grass, Monarch running backs Anthony Dickson and James Walker slipped through the Tartars defense for much of the second half. The duo combined for 192 yards on the ground, most of which came with Valley managing the clock well and wearing down Compton's front seven.

Sims said the offense's execution was the difference between winning and the team's previous three contests.

"We work hard all the time," Sims said. We just haven't been able to execute. We had 12 turnovers in our first two games."

Early on, Saturday's game appeared eerily similar to the Monarch's past performances. After holding Compton to a three-and-out, Valley's special teams let them off the hook as Broderick Williams was ripped free of the ball at Valley's 38 yard line.

Less than two minutes later, the Tartars practically stumbled upon the first score of the game.

On third and long, Compton's Kyle Parrish connected with Steve Tirogene on a middle screen that after three missed tackles and a dash from sideline to sideline, resulted in Tirogene stretching across the goal line for a 50-yard touchdown.

But the penchant for big plays did not end there.

Following a botched PAT by Compton, Dickson coughed up the ball on Valley's first offensive play from scrimmage giving the Tartars great field position again.

Compton's drive stalled after one first down, and Monarch defensive back David Coates potentially changed the complexion of the game with his first of two interceptions.

Three possessions later, quarterback Troy Jackson threw a rainbow over the Compton secondary to Johnathon Augustin for a 55-yard touchdown. Valley went up 7-6 when kicker Christ Vokos slammed home the extra point.

The Monarchs would never trail again, thanks in large part to a defense that allowed only 42 rushing yards.

Although Compton too often killed drives with self-inflicted mistakes (14 penalties for 127 yards lost), players like linebacker Sione Fale'Ofa caused the Tartar's spread offense a great deal of havoc.

Fale'Ofa, safety Josh Streid and defensive end Faatali Choulee pressured Parrish all night and snuffed out several plays in the backfield.

"In crunch time we were able to step up and make plays," said sophomore linebacker Anthony Kahill.

Kahlil, who's 5-yard interception return for a touchdown put Valley up 14-6 with less than five minutes to go, led the team with 5.5 tackles.

Still, with plenty of time left for Compton to mount a comeback, the offense saved their most impressive moment for the final two minutes.

Walker, a 215-pound freshman, carried much of the load, but quarterback Justin Grantin ultimately led the team on its time killing march.

Grantin, who played the entire second half, showed moxie in the pocket and took care of the football.

Sims said his decision to keep Jackson on the bench was about giving the 5'9" Grantin an opportunity.

"He's worked hard all year and we thought we could get him some more reps. We were actually going to put Jackson in in the fourth quarter, but [Grantin] asked if he could have one more series and he did well, so we kept him in."

VALLEY PEOPLE

Kinesiology Major Runs the Gauntlet For Monarch Cross County

BY OSCAR CHICAS
STAFF WRITER

At first glance you'll notice a young man with a rather quiet demeanor. If you get Andrew Salg in the right situation, say a three-hour road trip, then you get a real show.

Salg, 18, is a freshman at Valley College who is majoring in Kinesiology and is a pivotal member of Valley's cross-country team. His desire is to transfer to Oregon University and become a running coach.

His main interests include running, sleeping, running, eating and running. " Running is my life, if I wasn't doing this I would probably be home getting fat" said Salg after a teammate hands him a pineapple-flavored cookie.

Salg began competitively running two and a half years ago only after his PE teacher advised him to join the school team. He went undefeated in the two-mile race until he reached state competition, where he made it to the top ten, but felt he could've done better if he would have stretched.

On the way to the WSC Invitational in San Luis Obispo, Andrew was quiet and reserved, speaking almost exclusively to his good friend and cross-country assistant Coach Habib Tobejiah.

"I met Andy when he joined the cross country team, back then I was the fastest guy on the squad, but once he joined he blew right by me," said coach Habib, who has known Salg since their high school days at Grant where they were both members of the cross-country team.

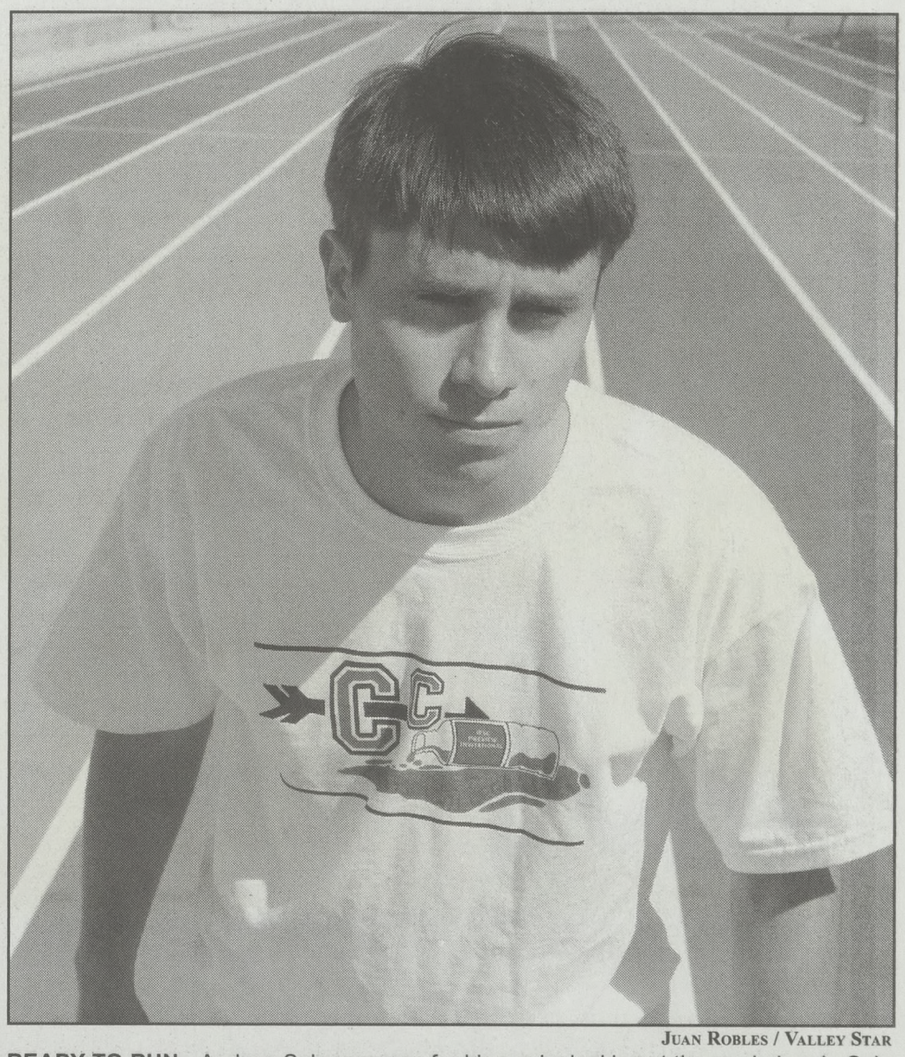
Tobejiah, 19, is Salg's friend, manager, and coach. Once these two come together they bicker as only friends do. In a moment's notice things return to normal. As they put it, they love to hate each other. When asked how they put up with each other Tobejiah jokingly says as Salg rolls his eyes "I have to be nice to him, he's my ticket to the big time."

At the WSC invitational Salg finished 6th out of 103 contestants and first overall for Valley. Apart from his talent, training has been a key to his success. The men's cross country team have been registering 60 miles-per-week and when he is not training with the team he runs 10 miles for a little extra training. Salg can run a mile in five minutes and in a qualifying race for a Marathon at Hanson Dam he ran the 30k course, which is 18 miles in a time of 1:51:00 min.

As the bus makes its way home it is filled with music and dancing, and chants for Andy to join the festivities and dance. He looks around at all the faces waiting to see if he'll actually dance, and he did not fail his cheering audience. The next task according to coach Habib is to teach him how to snap his fingers and pop so he can "Lean wit it, Rock wit it."

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Opponent	Date
@ Bakersfield	9/28
@ Irvine Park	10/5

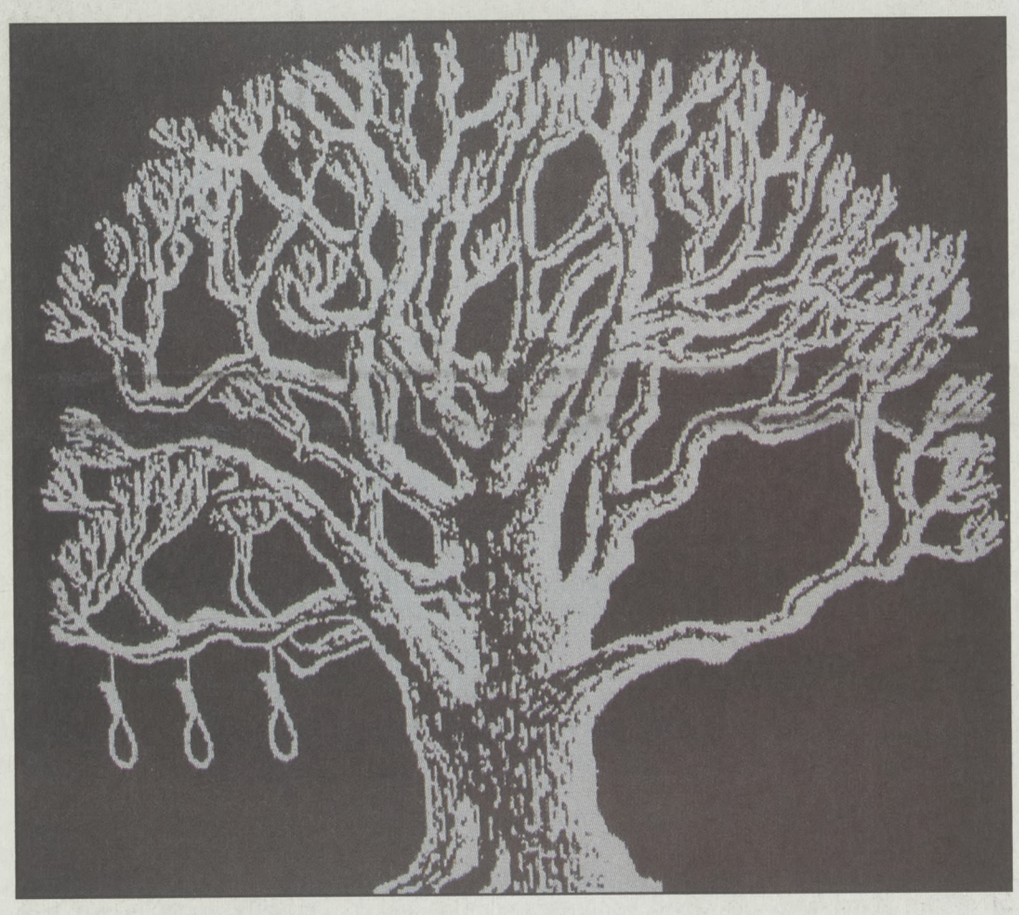


JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

READY TO RUN - Andrew Salg prepares for his run by looking at the road ahead. Salg has been running for Valley College for more than two years.

SIGN UP FOR SUPPORT - Valley College architecture major, Derail Armstrong, 25, passes around a petition on campus in support of the six Louisiana teenagers who are known as the Jena 6.

PEACE PLEA – A Valley College student Marco Mora, 19, says he spent two hours making his sandwich board sign to show his support for the "Jena 6."

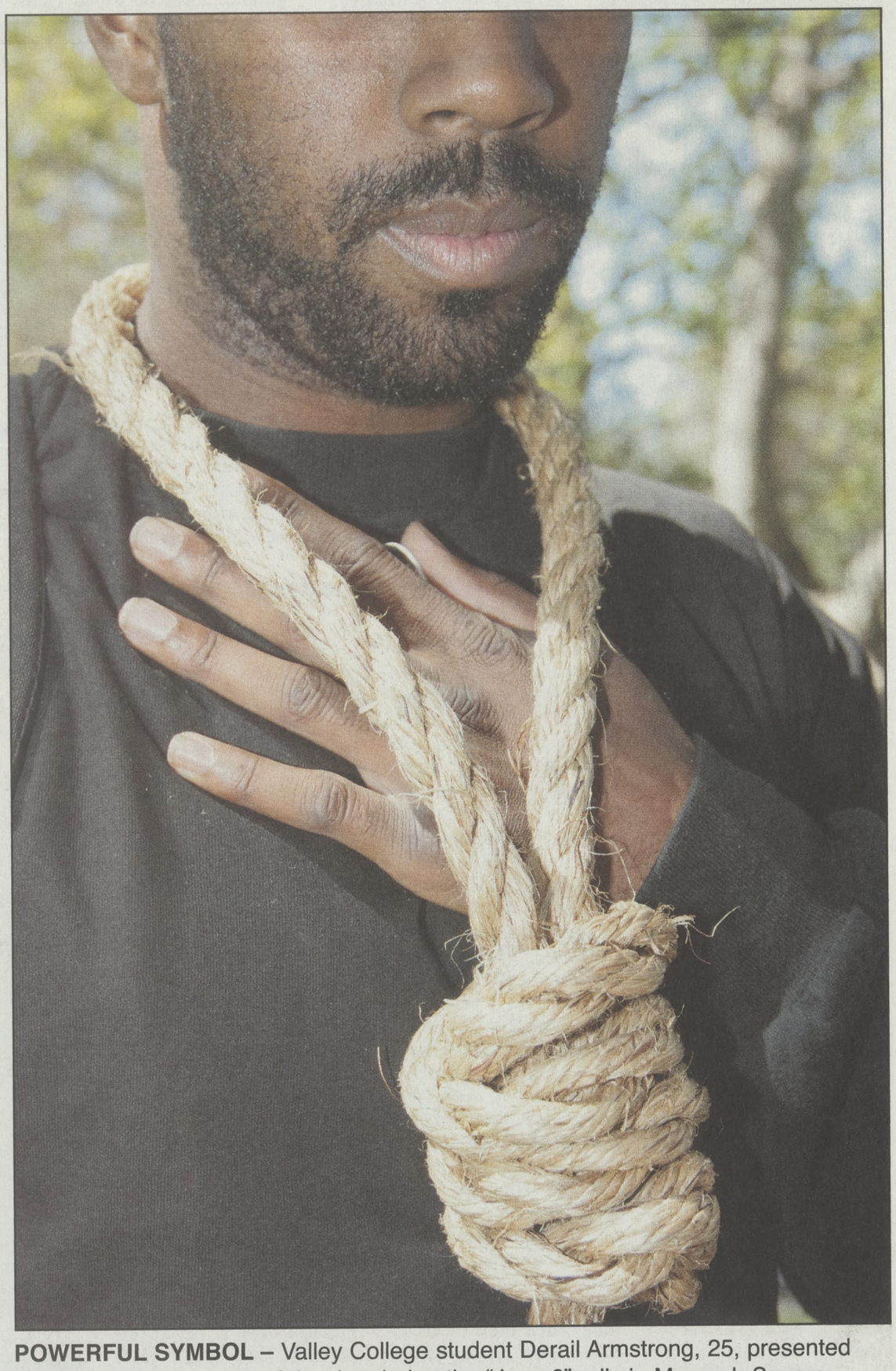


THE "WHITE TREE" – A demonstrator at Valley College carried a placard showing the controversial oak tree in Jena, Louisiana—dubbed the "white tree" where, as the story goes, only white students were welcomed to sit under. Other reports say that both black and white students routinely sat under the tree before nooses were hung from the since-cut-down tree in early September 2006.

VOICES FOR THE "JENA 6" – Several Valley College students staged an impromptu march in Monarch Square to show support for the six Louisiana teenagers who are know as the Jena 6.

THE VOICES OF MONARCH SQUARE- "FREE JENA 6!"

Last Thursday in Monarch Square at Valley College, a rally was held to show support for the six teenagers in Louisiana known as the "Jena 6." The youths were charged with attempted murder in the beating of a white schoolmate last December. Most of the charges have been reduced and only one of the teenagers remains in jail. These are some of the scenes from the campus demonstration.



POWERFUL SYMBOL – Valley College student Derail Armstrong, 25, presented the most striking image of the day during the "Jena 6" rally in Monarch Square. Photographer Van Trieu says she chose to frame the image this way because, "not showing his face fully, represents humanity as a whole … we all suffer from any hate crimes."